

Achmester, Main House
(Richard Mansfield House)
(Nowland House)

HABS No. DE-221-A

Road 429, 1 mile east of Route 896
on the north side of the road
Armstrong Corner Vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware	COUNTY New Castle County	TOWN OR VICINITY Armstrong Corner vicinity St. Georges Hundred
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Achmester - (family papers), Main House		HABS NO. DE-221-A
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Richard Mansfield House; Nowland House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) North side of county route 429 approximately one mile west of the intersection of routes 429 and 896.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1820 (construction; family accounts) with multiple additions 1820-1850	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Achmester was the residence of Richard Mansfield, one of the early agricultural reformers of southern New Castle County. The house reflects concerns with the consolidation of household service functions and stylistic updating of mid 19th-century Delaware housing.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Georgian vernacular with Italianate trim added.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Braced frame (principle post and stud) covered with novelty and rabbet edge beaded siding.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) see attached plan		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The finish of the south elevation with Italianate and Gothic Revival detailing dates to the acquisition of Mansfield's house by his son-in-law circa 1846.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Plain Federal period mantels survive in the main block's east parlor and the downstairs chamber; other rooms were refurnished with Italianate marble mantels after Mansfield's death in 1846.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Period I - 1½ story, center passage plan; Period II house extended eastward with a narrow cross-passage, downstairs chamber, and dining room wing; Period III - (possibly contemporary to II) service ell extending north built off the east wing and containing pantry, kitchen quarters; Period IV - pantry extended.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant with some structural deterioration. Maintained by the family.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places Mansfield Private Accounts, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware Family papers in collection of Henry Vaughan, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware		DATE 8-19-85

